

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the case. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 9-13 are allowed.

Claims 1-8 and 14-21 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,803,553). The Examiner stated essentially that Nakano teaches all the limitations of claims 1-8 and 14-21.

Claims 1 and 14 claim, *inter alia*, "determining a difference between the profile of a target object to the first axis and the projection at a plurality of positions along the first axis and at the plurality of positions along the first axis for each rotated profile or rotated projection; and detecting the object by determining a determined difference between the profile and the projection is less than a threshold at one of the plurality of positions."

Nakano teaches a projection determined along two axes and a predetermined standard pattern determined along the axes (see Figures 1a and 1b and col. 5, line 63 to col. 6 line17). Nakano does not teach "determining a difference between the profile of a target object to the first axis and the projection at a plurality of positions along the first axis and at the plurality of positions along the first axis for each rotated profile or rotated projection" as claimed in claims 1 and 14. Nakano's method compares only an object in one orientation on two axes. Nakano does not teach multiple orientations of the projections or standard projection patterns. Thus, Nakano fails to teach "determining a difference between the profile of a target object to the first axis and the projection at a plurality of positions along the first axis and at the plurality of positions along the first

axis for each rotated profile or rotated projection” as claimed in claims 1 and 14.

Therefore, Nakano fails to teach all the limitations of claims 1 and 14.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1. Claims 15-21 depend from claim 14. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for claims 1 and 14. At least claims 4 and 17, and 6 and 19 are believed to be allowable for additional reasons.

Referring to claims 4 and 17; Nakano teaches a shifting register for comparing a portion of a projection pattern with a standard projection pattern (see Abstract). Claims 4 and 17 claim, *inter alia*, “determining a pixel-by-pixel difference between a binary image of the target object used to determine the profile and the binary image of the object limited to the positions having the differences below the threshold along the first and second axes.” Nakano compares projections of the object to standard projection patterns; the projections are distinct from images. The images of characters taught by Nakano are used only in determining the projection; no pixel-by-pixel difference of the image is performed. Nakano does not teach a difference between pixels of images. Therefore Nakano fails to teach “determining a pixel-by-pixel difference between a binary image of the target object...” as claimed in claims 4 and 17.

Referring now to claims 6 and 19; Nakano teaches a method for determining a character from a projection pattern of an input character (see col. 4, lines 5-8). Claims 6 and 19 claim, *inter alia*, “wherein the image includes a plurality of objects.” The input image of Nakano includes only one character or object. Figs. 1a and 1b clearly show only a single object in each image being treated. Nowhere does Nakano teach an image

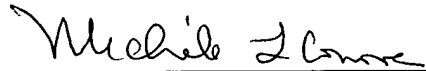
including a plurality of objects. Therefore, Nakano fails to teach all the limitations of claims 6 and 19.

The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

For the forgoing reasons, the present application, including claims 1-21, is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early and favorable action is respectfully urged.

Respectfully Submitted,

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